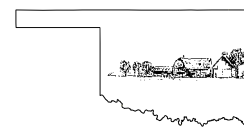


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March 15, 2004

A combined contribution with
-Cooperative Extension Service
-USDA Farm Service Agency
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

Milder Temperature Brings Improvement in Wheat

March 14 - Farmers are starting to get back into the fields after last weeks rain. The temperatures, along with the moisture, have improved the outlook for small grains and row crops. Soil moisture is much improved due to the rain, however, there is some damage due to severe flooding that occurred in some areas. Topsoil moisture was 12 percent surplus, 85 percent adequate and 3 percent short. Subsoil moisture was at 6 percent surplus, 71 percent adequate, 18 percent short and 5 percent very short. The temperatures averaged in the low 50's throughout the state. There were only 3.5 days suitable for field work.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	0	3	85	12
Last Week	1	3	63	33
Last Year	7	35	56	2

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	5	18	71	6
Last Week	4	21	62	13
Last Year	7	27	65	1

Small Grains: Wheat, oat, and rye conditions were rated as mostly good to fair. The winter wheat condition was 9 percent excellent, 44 percent good, 28 percent fair, 14 percent poor and 5 percent very poor. Wheat was 25 percent jointing. Most areas saw wheat conditions improve due to the rain. However, some areas reported slight damage to areas of some wheat fields due to dry conditions. Some areas reported that rain and wind may have damaged some crops. Rye conditions were helped tremendously by the recent weather. Rye condition was 8 percent excellent, 55 percent good, 23 percent fair, 9 percent poor and 5 percent very poor. Rye was reported at 46 percent jointing. Oat condition was at 6 percent excellent, 30 percent good, 48 percent fair, 11 percent poor and 5 percent very poor with 77 percent of the acreage planted and 1 percent jointing. Overall, small grains made some improvement thanks to the rain. Insect activity remained light.

Row Crops: Seedbed preparation was getting underway for the row crops. Wet fields have slowed field preparation in some areas. Cotton seedbed prepared was at 10 percent. Corn seedbed prepared was at 22 percent. Sorghum seedbed prepared was at 8 percent. Soybeans and peanuts seedbed prepared were at 13 and 14 percent, respectively. Most producers were busy preparing the fields and applying fertilizers and pesticides.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 14, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat	5	14	28	44	9
Rye	5	9	23	55	8
Oats	5	11	48	30	6

Pasture: Pasture and range conditions have also benefitted from the rain. Conditions were rated as 4 percent excellent, 21 percent good, 44 percent fair, 22 percent poor, and 9 percent very poor. The rains this past week greatly improved the outlook for spring pasture. Spring green up should appear rapidly.

Livestock: Livestock condition changed little from last week, ranging from good to fair condition. Livestock condition was rated as 11 percent excellent, 51 percent good, 30 percent fair, 6 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor. The milder weather has helped livestock conditions. The death loss of cattle has continued to be light, also due to the mild winter conditions. Hay supplies were rated as mostly average. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged at 95.50 per cwt. The price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged 89.10 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 14, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	2	6	30	51	11
Pasture & Range	9	22	44	21	4

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OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week ending March 14, 2004

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -					Sorghum				
Jointing	25	10	30	27	Seedbed Prepared	8	6	13	11
Oats -					Soybeans				
Planted	77	63	78	81	Seedbed Prepared	13	10	14	17
Jointing	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	Peanuts				
Rye -					Seedbed Prepared	14	13	11	13
Jointing	46	n/a	n/a	n/a	Cotton				
Corn -					Seedbed Prepared	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Seedbed Prepared	22	12	28	25					

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 14, 2004 - Temperatures ranged from 26 degrees at Wister on Wednesday, March 10, and at Nowata, Friday, March 12, to 80 degrees at Fairview on Monday, March 8. Precipitation averaged 0.01 in. Panhandle district to 0.39 in. Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 43 degrees at Seiling on Monday, March 8, to 57 degrees at Sulphur on Thursday, March 11.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending March 14, 2004

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	September 1, 2003 to March 14, 2004		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	64	37	50	0.01	6.42	-0.60	91
West Central	62	41	51	0.14	11.20	-0.36	97
Southwest	62	42	52	0.27	10.63	-2.27	82
North Central	63	39	50	0.02	12.71	+0.18	101
Central	63	39	52	0.19	14.94	-2.34	86
South Central	64	41	52	0.13	15.03	-4.91	75
Northeast	62	36	50	0.11	18.89	-0.63	97
East Central	63	37	51	0.22	17.67	-5.24	77
Southeast	64	38	51	0.39	20.60	-6.04	77